



MONTANA STATE PRISON POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Policy No.: MSP 3.5.3	Subject: MENTAL HEALTH CASES IN LOCKED HOUSING UNIT STATUS	
Chapter 3: INSTITUTIONAL OPERATIONS	Page 1 of 2	
Section 5: Special Management	Revision Date:	
Signature: /s/ Mike Mahoney	Effective Date: 1-15-01	

I. POLICY: It is the policy of Montana State Prison to provide separate and specialized treatment, program services, placements and/or housing for inmates who display, or who have been diagnosed as having, severe mental health problems.

II. AUTHORITY:

2-15-112, MCA Duties and Power of Department Heads

53-1-203, MCA Power and Duties of Department of Corrections

National Commission on Correctional Health Care Standards for Prisons and Juvenile Health Standards.

DOC 3.5.3 Mental Health Cases in Locked Unit Status.

III. DEFINITIONS:

Severe Mental Health Problem means any organic, mental or emotional impairment, which has a substantial adverse effect on an inmate's cognitive or volitional function.

IV. PROCEDURES:

A. Procedures approved by the Department statewide medical task force establish how services will be provided to inmates who have been diagnosed as having severe mental health problems. MSP staff shall follow specific instructions established to guide them in evaluating inmates who may display severe mental health behavior.

B. Inmates on locked housing unit status for administrative or disciplinary reasons, who subsequently display severe mental health behavior, must be seen by mental health staff on regular rounds or upon referral by a staff member. When any inmate is

Policy No.: MSP 3.5.3	Chapter3: Institutional Operations	Page 2 of 2
Subject: MENTAL HEALTH CASES IN LOCKED HOUSING UNIT STATUS		

diagnosed as having a severe mental health problem, he must be placed in a secure housing area, or status, identified specifically for medical or mental health purposes.

- C. Upon authorization of the health care professional in charge, and with the concurrence of the Warden or designee, an inmate who displays dangerous behavior as a symptom of severe mental illness, and cannot be sufficiently controlled in available medical housing may be temporarily housed in a locked housing unit, pending immediate referral to a mental health professional. He shall be removed at the earliest possible date to an appropriate placement and/or status. The inmate must be kept in an area that affords direct staff supervision, not less than every 15 minutes.

- D. While in a locked housing unit, the inmate must be afforded the same access to recreation, showers, and other activities as any other inmate in that status; however, staff may order restrictions on property, recreation, showers, and other activities if the inmate presents a danger to self or others.

V. CLOSING:

Questions concerning this policy shall be directed to the Director of Mental Health Services.